

Appln. No. 09/752,037
Amendment dated September 13, 2006
Reply to Office Action mailed June 15, 2006

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims (deleted text being struck through and added text being underlined):

1. (Currently Amended) A method of handling a call from a caller to a communication device, the method comprising:
receiving the call;
determining if the communication device is in a privacy operating mode or a normal operating mode; and
if the communication device is in the privacy operating mode, completing the call if a privacy mode code is entered by the caller; and
if the communication device is in the privacy operating mode, routing the call to a message system if no privacy mode code is entered by the caller.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the privacy mode code is selected by a user of the communication device.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the communication device is one of: a cellular telephone and a personal digital assistant.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the method is performed by one of: a base station and a switch.
6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, further comprising the step of receiving a request from the communication device to place the communication device in the privacy operating mode from the normal operating mode.

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7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the request further comprises:

a privacy mode message selected by a user of the communication device and adapted to be provided to the caller prior to completing the call; and
the privacy mode code selected by the user of the communication device.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, further comprising the step of receiving a request from the communication device to place the communication device out of the privacy operating mode.

9. (Previously Presented) A method of handling a call from a caller to a communication device, the method comprising:
receiving the call;
determining if the communication device is in a privacy operating mode or a normal operating mode; and
if the communication device is in the privacy operating mode,
providing a privacy mode message including a selected privacy override code to the caller.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, further comprising if the communication device is in the privacy operating mode, completing the call if the selected privacy override code is entered by the caller.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, further comprising if the communication device is in the privacy operating mode, routing the call to a message system if no selected privacy override code is entered by the caller.

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12. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the privacy mode message is selected from a group of prerecorded messages.

13. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the privacy mode message is recorded by a user of the communication device.

14. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the privacy override code is selected by a user of the communication device.

15. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the communication device is a cellular telephone or a personal digital assistant.

16. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the method is performed by a base station or a switch.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, further comprising the step of receiving a request from the communication device to place the communication device in the privacy operating mode.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the request further comprises:

the privacy mode message selected by a user of the communication device and adapted to be provided to the caller upon receiving the call; and

the privacy override code selected by the user of the communication device.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, further comprising the step of receiving a request from the communication device to place the communication device out of the privacy operating mode.

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20. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium having instructions for causing a computer to perform a method of handling a call from a caller to a communication device, the method comprising:

receiving the call;

determining if the communication device is in a privacy operating mode or a normal operating mode; and

if the communication device is in the privacy operating mode, completing the call if a predetermined code is entered by the caller; and

if the communication device is in the privacy operating mode, routing the call to a message system if no predetermined code is entered by the caller.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium having instructions for causing a computer to perform a method of handling a call from a caller to a communication device, the method comprising:

receiving the call;

determining if the communication device is in a privacy operating mode or in a normal operating mode; and

if the communication device is in the privacy operating mode, providing a privacy mode message including a selected privacy override code to the caller.

23. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 22, further comprising if the communication device is in the privacy operating mode, completing the call if the privacy override code is entered by the caller.

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24. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 22, further comprising if the communication device is in the privacy operating mode, routing the call to a message system if no privacy override code is entered by the caller.

25. (Previously Presented) A system for handling a call from a caller to a user of a communication device, the system comprising:

a data entry device capable of receiving input to cause the communication device to enter a privacy operating mode from a normal operating mode;

a memory capable of storing a privacy mode message, the privacy mode message adapted to be provided to the caller prior to completing the call to the user; and

a receiver capable of completing the call to the user if a privacy mode code is entered by the caller.

26. (Original) The system of claim 25, further wherein the receiver is capable of routing the call to a message system if no privacy mode code is entered by the caller.

27. (Original) The system of claim 25, wherein the data entry device is a telephone keypad.

28. (Original) The system of claim 25, wherein the privacy mode code comprises at least one keystroke from the data entry device.

29. (Original) The system of claim 25, wherein the privacy mode code is selected by the user of the communication device.

30. (Original) The system of claim 25, wherein the communication device is one of: a cellular telephone and a personal digital assistant.

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31. (Previously Presented) A system for handling a call from a caller to a user of a communication device, the system comprising:

a data entry device capable of receiving input to cause the communication device to enter a privacy operating mode from a normal operating mode; and

a memory capable of providing a privacy mode message including a selected privacy override code to the caller prior to completing the call to the user.

32. (Original) The system of claim 31, further comprising a receiver capable of completing the call to the user if the selected privacy override code is entered by the caller.

33. (Original) The system of claim 32, further wherein the receiver is capable of routing the call to a message system if no selected privacy override code is entered by the caller.

34. (Original) The system of claim 31, wherein the selected privacy override code is provided by the user of the communication device.

35. (Currently Amended) A system for handling a call from a caller to a user of a communication device, the system comprising:

a data entry device capable of receiving input to cause the communication device to enter a privacy operating mode from a normal operating mode; and

a receiver capable of receiving the call to the communication device and completing the call to the user only if an interrupt is received from the caller; and

a memory capable of storing a privacy mode message adapted to be provided to the caller when the communication device is in the privacy operating mode.

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36. (Original) The system of claim 35, wherein the interrupt is a privacy mode code entered by the caller.

37. (Currently Amended) A system for handling a call from a caller to a user of a communication device, the system comprising:

a receiver capable of receiving the call and a privacy mode code entered by the caller;

a memory capable of storing a status indicating if the communication device is in a privacy operating mode or a normal operating mode; and

a transmitter capable of completing the call to the user if the communication device is in the privacy operating mode and the privacy mode code is entered by the caller; and

wherein the memory is further capable of storing a message from the caller if the communication device is in the privacy operating mode and no privacy mode code is entered by the caller.

38. (Cancelled)

39. (Original) The system of claim 37, wherein the memory is further capable of storing a privacy mode message adapted to be provided to the caller prior to completing the call to the user.

40. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 37, wherein the receiver is further capable of receiving a request from the communication device to place the communication device in the privacy mode.

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41. (Original) The system of claim 40, wherein the request further comprises:

a privacy mode message selected by a user of the communication device and adapted to be provided to the caller prior to completing the call to the user; and
the privacy mode code selected by the user of the communication device.

42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 40, wherein the receiver is further capable of receiving a request from the communication device to place the communication device out of the privacy operating mode and into the normal operating mode.

43. (Original) The system of claim 37, wherein the communication device is one of: a cellular telephone and a personal digital assistant.

44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 additionally comprising, if the communication device is in the privacy operating mode, passing the call to a voice messaging system if the privacy mode code is not entered by the caller, the voice messaging system being capable of recording a message spoken by the caller making the call.

45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 additionally comprising, if the communication device is in the privacy operating mode, blocking completion of the call until the privacy mode code is entered.

46. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 additionally comprising, if the communication device is in the privacy operating mode, preventing the communication device from producing an incoming call signal if the privacy mode code is not entered by the caller.

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47. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 additionally comprising, if the communication device is in the privacy operating mode, preventing the communication device from producing an incoming call signal for all calls for which the caller does not enter the privacy mode code.

48. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 additionally comprising, if the communication device is in the privacy operating mode, requiring entry of the privacy mode code by the caller before the communication device produces an incoming call signal.

49. (Cancelled)

50. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the normal operating mode is characterized by producing an incoming call signal upon receipt of the call, and the privacy operating mode is characterized by producing the incoming call signal only if the caller has entered the privacy mode code.

51. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising, if the communication device is in the privacy operating mode, announcing the privacy mode code to the caller.

52. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the step of providing a privacy mode message including a selected privacy override code to the caller further comprises announcing the privacy override code to the caller.

53. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of receiving a spoken command from a user of the communication device to place the communication device in the privacy operating mode.